

COMMUNITY ADVISORY NETWORK DEVELOPING ONSLOW
MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 2015



The Community Advisory Network Developing Onslow (CAN-DO) met at Trillium Health Resources on this date. The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by CAN-DO Co-Chair Kristi Pitchford. Those in attendance were: Brian Fike, Brian Kelly, Carol Long, Chris Slater, Christa Gunderson, Christy O’Daniel, Cynthia Figueroa, Dana Painter, Diana DeVusser, Deandra Stills, Gail Horn, James Ross, Janice Graniero, Jason Klein, Jerrick Vernon, John Kerr, Jon Johnson, Karol Davis, Kathleen Holbrook, Kathy Horne, Kelley Hamilton, Kristi Pitchford, Laura Hagerman, Laura McKinney, Laura Marx, Linda Graham, Melissa Balto, Pamela Brown, Patricia McClarin, Penni Ford, Reggie Roy, Stan Brown, Susan Pridgen, Theo McClammy, Theresa Anderson, Trammel Davis, Ursulla Ingram, and Virginia “Vicki” Hill.

Excused absences were received from Cathy Jackson, Craig Wagner, Phyllis Isenhardt, and William Keller.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made of members and guests.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 5, 2015 were reviewed and approved upon a motion made by Brian Kelly which was seconded by James Ross. The motion carried without opposition.

PRESENTATION ON 2-1-1

Laura Marx, President and CEO of the United Way of North Carolina, presented on the 2-1-1 system and its role in Coordinated Assessment. The 2-1-1 dialing service connects people to health and human services. There is 100% state coverage in NC. There are 2 call centers: Durham and Asheville. They handled over 122,000 calls last year. Bilingual Call Specialists “walk” callers through a set of questions to determine the best service. They ask what the caller’s need is, what resources have been tried and discuss eligibility information. They can assist callers with emergency assistance and housing. 2-1-1 has the ability to connect immediately with a caller who is homeless. The United Way uses information gleaned from 2-1-1 to determine funding needs. 211Counts.org uses a real time dashboard per zip code to map the trends. It ties the call center with community data.

Laura sits on the Board of NCEH and reviewed Onslow County’s Coordinated Assessment Plan. Onslow’s plan was good; all were not. Laura met with Craig Wagner and Susan Pridgen about a proposal to pilot the use of 2-1-1 with respect to Coordinated Assessment. Onslow is the only county in the state to do this. 2-1-1 can be the diversion screening so that agencies can do what they do best. 2-1-1 wants to be a part of CAN-DO and to function as a player and problem solver. To do so, 2-1-1 needs really good local resources so that they can connect homeless individuals with appropriate information.

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Through Balance of State, 2-1-1 will build resource directories one time so they need agencies to check what is already listed to ensure its accuracy. This information will be sent out to Regional Leads and training will be provided to ensure continuous accuracy. Susan Pridgen advised membership that Melissa Balto and Janice Graniero have spent countless hours updating the local resource information for 2-1-1. Christy O'Daniel inquired as to the success rate of 2-1-1. Laura responded that 20-30% people get connected to resources. She added that shelters are the last place to which they refer homeless clients; they try all other options first.

BALANCE OF STATE RESTRUCTURING

Susan Pridgen advised membership that Balance of State is considering joining together higher functioning counties with lower functioning counties. She and Brian Fike are on the State's Restructuring Committee. The philosophy of BoS is that individual counties like Onslow should not be concerned about just their own county; we should want to end homelessness in other counties as well. A survey was sent out to all members to provide input. Completing the survey is the only way our voices can be heard. Survey responses must be submitted to Susan by the end of September to allow her to collate our responses as CAN-DO members.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Coordinated Assessment: Susan Pridgen shared that Onslow has not implemented Coordinated Assessment as planned. Prevention and Diversion (P&D) tools should be used when someone will be homeless within 72 hours. At this time, no P&D tools have been submitted and one VISPDAT for Rapid Rehousing has qualified. Susan stated that the purpose of Coordinated Assessment is to get homeless people off the street and into housing; to reduce the burden upon shelters. The Onslow Point in Time (PIT) Count shows that we have successfully reduced homelessness in Onslow. The state wants a more refined/lighter touch to serving the homeless.

Susan added that we have expended all of our Solutions for Stability grant monies. The annual goal of ESG/SFS was to assist 24 clients; we actually assisted 26 clients. The ESG grant period has been extended until December to allow other counties to spend down all of their grant funds while we have already spent all of our funds. Susan referred members to her written report on SFS.

The recent ESG audit showed no findings. We have no time limit for serving families which will allow us to serve more clients.

Onslow Community Outreach: Deandra Stills stated that the shelter served 50 residents in July which included an increase in families served. The shelter served 4 families with 10 children between them with 7 kids staying in the shelter at one time.

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Deandra stated that Piggly Wiggly is hosting a fundraiser for OCO today and tomorrow. All proceeds will go to the Soup Kitchen. Deandra distributed the Octoberfest flyer; Cindy Williams is coordinating this year's event. No updates on the new shelter to be located on Hargett Street.

Onslow Women's Center: No representation today.

ECBHSA: Linda Graham announced that they have created a program which will place a staff member in non-profit agencies until 6-30-16. Contact Daphany Hill at 347-2151 if interested.

Tri-Counties Crusaders: Karol Davis announced that they will host a Re-Entry meeting at Jacksonville Police Department at 10:00 am on August 13, 2015. She brought with her the *Ban the Box* petition which will prevent job candidates from having to check the box on job applications regarding having a criminal history. This will allow people with a criminal past to have an opportunity to interview.

DSS: Christa Gunderson shared that Onslow County DSS currently has Emergency Assistance monies available to assist people with electric bills. The bill must be within 5 days of disconnect to qualify. It can also help with electrical deposits. CIP monies are weather dependent.

NC Works Veterans Outreach/Career Center: Kelley Hamilton shared that they will be hosting their 3rd Annual Veterans Cold Weather Event on October 13, 2015. Only VA organizations are permitted to set up a table at this event. Kelley requested assistance with locating participants, sign sponsors and food sponsors for this event.

Reggie Roy requested that if agencies are serving a veteran, call 347-2121 and ask for a Disabled Veteran Outreach Specialist. Make it a requirement to have all veterans go to the Career Center and get their paperwork signed. The Career Center will see vets whether they are disabled or not. The other categories of vets they serve are: homeless, those between ages 18-24 years, those released from incarceration and those with no income for past 27 weeks. Staff members of the Career Center are subject matter experts and can assist. Trammel Davis inquired about vets who are inpatient at Onslow Memorial Hospital. Reggie stated the Career Center is mobile and can go to the hospital to meet with the veteran. They will not make home visits but they will meet vets in a neutral location. Jason Klein also offered his mobile assistance with vets.

Salvation Army: Laura Hagerman requested that agencies send clients to them for assistance with food.

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ursulla Ingram announced a training for Prison Fellowship Ministries to be held on Saturday, September 12, 2015 at the Cape Carteret Baptist Church. Call Ursulla at 939-5173 for more information.

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Brian Fike asked how everyone liked CAN-DO's new meeting location. He received positive affirmation as the space is comfortable with better acoustics than the church and allows meeting participants to face one another which enhances communication and sharing.

All future CAN-DO meetings will be held at Trillium Health Resources in the Hammocks Beach conference room located at 165 Center Street, Jacksonville.

There being no further business, Kristi Pitchford adjourned the meeting at 9:37 am. The next CAN-DO meeting will be held on **Friday, September 4, 2015 at 8:30 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Holbrook, Recording Secretary